

**GRADUATE STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE  
AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

Updated  
1.22.2018

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese only accepts students who wish to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Spanish or in Spanish and Portuguese. All students who enter the program will earn an M.A. degree as a step toward their Ph.D. All students receive 5 years of financial support. The Department offers a wide range of courses in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian literary and cultural studies, as well as a seminar in Ibero-Romance Philology. Students are encouraged to pursue a course of study that draws on the many strengths of the University. Close cooperation with Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities broadens the opportunities for graduate study. First-year students holding only a B.A. or *Licenciatura* are granted one service-free year. Teaching assistants teach one course per semester and are given stipend support in addition to full tuition remission. University topping-up awards are granted to the most competitive applicants.

**Our faculty's areas of expertise include:**

Colonial Latin American Studies  
Latin American literature of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries  
Hispanic Caribbean literature  
Hispanic Transatlantic literature  
Afro-Latin American literature  
Brazilian literature  
Comparative approaches to Brazilian and Spanish American literature  
Latino Caribbean literature in the United States  
Inter-American literature (comparative studies of the literatures and cultures of the Americas)  
Medieval Spanish literature  
Early Modern Spanish literature  
Modern and contemporary Spanish literature  
Comparative Iberian Studies (comparative studies of the literatures of Spain and Portugal)  
Hemispheric Studies  
Transatlantic Studies  
Spanish, Spanish American, and Brazilian cultural studies  
Spanish, Spanish American, and Brazilian film studies  
Catalan Studies  
Literature and media  
Linguistics and philology of all Romance languages of the Iberian Peninsula

**Some more specific objects of study and research include:**

Autobiography as a genre  
 Constructions and images of otherness in Latin America  
 Contemporary Spanish drama  
 Counter-colonial thought in Latin America  
 Issues of subjectivity and gender in early modern literature  
 Latin American and inter-American literary theory  
 Metafiction in Hispanic literature  
 Medieval courtly literature  
 The Picaresque tradition  
*Modernismo* and modernity  
 Poetics and politics of the body  
 Poetry of the Spanish and Latin American Avant-Garde  
 Popular culture  
 Race in Afro-Spanish American and Brazilian literatures  
 Sex, gender, and sexuality in Brazilian literature  
 Sexual poetics of the Spanish novel  
 Spanish ideological fictions  
 Theory and practice of translation  
 Travel writing, migration, and Caribbean diaspora

**Admission Requirements**

Only students planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Spanish or in Spanish and Portuguese are accepted into the program. All students will complete the requirements for and earn a Vanderbilt M.A. in Spanish or in Spanish and Portuguese as a step toward the Ph.D.

**Admission Requirements for the Ph.D. Program in Spanish:**

1. An undergraduate B.A., *Licenciatura*, or its equivalent in an appropriate field OR an M.A. or its equivalent in an appropriate field; 2. Oral and written proficiency in Spanish and English; 3. Official transcripts of all undergraduate study; 4. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 5. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 6. A writing sample in Spanish (preferably an academic paper); 7. GRE scores; 8. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

**Admission Requirements for the Combined Ph.D. Program in Spanish and Portuguese:**

1. An undergraduate B.A., *Licenciatura*, or its equivalent in an appropriate field OR an M.A. or its equivalent in an appropriate field; 2. Oral and written proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese (and at least a basic level of competence in the other), as well as English; 3. Official transcripts of all undergraduate study; 4. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 5. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 6. A writing sample in

Spanish or Portuguese (preferably an academic paper); 7. GRE scores; 6. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

## **DEGREES OFFERED**

### **I. M.A. in Spanish** (earned as a step toward the Ph.D. in Spanish)

30 credit hours of course work at Vanderbilt, one additional foreign language (generally Portuguese), and an M.A. Thesis. A minimum of 24 of these hours must be in 6000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish. A maximum of 6 hours of graduate-level courses in Portuguese or in another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies may be counted toward the degree. Students may take any Portuguese course that appears in the Graduate School Catalog except 5301, 5302 and 5900.

### **II. M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese** (earned as a step toward the Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese)

30 credit hours of course work at Vanderbilt and an M.A. Thesis. 24 of these credit hours must be in 6000- to 9000-level seminars in Spanish and any Portuguese courses that appear in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302 and 5900), with a minimum of 9 hours in Spanish and 9 in Portuguese. The 6 remaining hours are graduate-level electives in Spanish or Portuguese or may be graduate seminars in another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Important Note: Although there are no restrictions on the number of 5000-level courses in Portuguese that may be taken (with the exception of 5301, 5302 and 5900), students are strongly recommended to register for any 7000- to 9000-level Portuguese courses offered.

### **III. Ph.D. in Spanish**

63 credit hours of course work, which include the 30 credit hours at Vanderbilt of the M.A. in Spanish. Above the 30 M.A. credit hours and toward the completion of the amount necessary for a Ph.D., a minimum of 24 credit hours must be in 6000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish. The other 9 credit hours correspond to a minor and may be taken outside the department or in graduate-level Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog, with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302 and 5900.

### **IV. Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese**

66 credit hours of course work, which include the 30 credit hours at Vanderbilt of the M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese, plus an additional 36 credit hours. Of these additional hours, a minimum of 9 must be in 7000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish and 9 in graduate-level Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302 and 5900). The remaining credit hours are graduate-level electives in Spanish or Portuguese. It is highly recommended that students exhaust the selection of graduate seminars in Portuguese before taking a 5000-level course in that language. The same applies to

Independent Studies either in Spanish or Portuguese. No minor is required for the Combined Ph.D., although a CLAS certificate is highly recommended.

**GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE**

**MASTER OF ARTS**

**Master of Arts in Spanish  
Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese**

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**Master of Arts in Spanish**

**Degree Requirements**

**1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the Ph.D. degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful M.A. Thesis; 5. Selection of Academic Advisor.**

**1. Student standing**

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support and teaching assistantships.

**2. Language requirement**

The language requirement may be fulfilled by completing a graduate class in Portuguese with a minimum grade of B+, and it should be satisfied as early as possible. This requirement may be met by taking Port 5203 or a more advanced course taught in the target language. It is most often satisfied by officially auditing PORT 1103 in the fall of the first year and enrolling in PORT 5203 for credit in the spring. Other possibilities for meeting this requirement will be entertained and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**3. Course work**

The M.A. in Spanish requires 30 credit hours of course work at Vanderbilt.

A. Required courses (6 hours):

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

**B. Core courses (18 hours):**

A minimum of 18 additional credit hours in 6000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish.

**C. Electives (6 hours):**

6 additional credit hours of graduate-level courses in Spanish, Portuguese or another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. One of these courses would normally be a course taken to meet the language requirement, usually PORT 5203 or another graduate-level Portuguese course that appears in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900).

D. Students cannot take an Independent Study toward the 30 credit hours for the M.A.

**4. M.A. Thesis****4a. Preparation**

All graduate students entering the Ph.D. program at Vanderbilt must complete a successful M.A. thesis (as defined below) no later than the beginning of their third semester of residence.

**4b. Format**

The M.A. Thesis will consist of an existing paper from a first-year seminar re-written under the supervision of the professor of that course. The supervisor must find that the article is suitable for submission to a scholarly journal. The article does not have to be accepted for publication, but it does need to be professional enough to be ready, in the opinion of the supervisor, for submission. The thesis is due at the DGS's office by August 20<sup>th</sup>, before the start of the second year of studies.

After completion of 30 hours of course work at Vanderbilt, students who have presented a successful M.A. thesis will be awarded the Vanderbilt M.A. in Spanish, regardless of any M.A.'s that may be held from other institutions.

Students who have not taught in their first year must satisfactorily complete the M.A. thesis and 24 hours of course work in their first year to become eligible to teach in their second year.

NOTE: Failure to complete the M.A. thesis may result in the withholding of TA salary during the terms that the student is unable to teach.

**5. Selection of Academic Advisor**

In their third semester of study, graduate students must choose an academic advisor, who will eventually direct the student's Ph.D. dissertation. Once the advisor has accepted the charge, the decision must be reported to the DGS so the information can be included in the student's academic record, to which the advisor will then have administrative access. Although each student is ultimately responsible for his or her own decisions, the role of academic advisor is to provide continuous guidance in designing a plan of study in accordance with the degree

requirements. If taken, the optional Comprehensive Exam preparation course (SPAN 6080) is done under the supervision of the advisor. With assistance from the Director of Graduate Studies, the advisor assesses the coherence and relevance of the proposed Ph.D. minor and generally serves as a mentor for the professional development of the student in terms of publications, conferences, grants and fellowships.

### **Restrictions**

Time limit: The Department expects students to complete all requirements, within the second year of residence in the program. Failing to complete the requirements for the M.A. will result in termination of support. The Graduate School stipulates that a student must complete all requirements for the M.A. degree within a six-year period, calculated from the end of the student's first semester of enrollment in the Graduate School.

## II. Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese

### Degree Requirements

**1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the Ph.D. degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful M.A. Thesis; 5. Selection of Academic Advisor.**

#### 1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support and teaching assistantships.

#### 2. Language requirement

Students must demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in both Spanish and Portuguese by taking graduate level course work in those languages. No additional languages are required.

#### 3. Course work

The M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese requires 30 credit hours of course work at Vanderbilt.

##### A. Required courses (9 hours):

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
3. PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature.

##### B. Core courses (15 hours):

15 additional credit hours of course work which must include 9 in additional 6000- to 9000-level seminars in Spanish and 6 in Portuguese courses that appear in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302 and 5900). Important note: Aside from PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900, there are no restrictions on the number of 5000-level Portuguese courses that may be taken. However, students are strongly advised to register for any 7000- to 9000-level Portuguese course offered.

##### C. Electives (6 hours):

6 credit hours of graduate-level electives in Spanish or Portuguese as described above or from another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

D. Students cannot take an Independent Study toward the 30 credit hours for the M.A.

#### **4. M.A. Thesis**

##### **4a. Preparation**

All graduate students entering the Ph.D. program at Vanderbilt must complete a successful M.A. thesis (as defined below) no later than the beginning of their third semester of residence.

##### **4b. Format**

The M.A. Thesis will consist of an existing paper from a first-year seminar re-written under the supervision of the professor of that course. The supervisor must find that the article is suitable for submission to a scholarly journal. The article does not have to be accepted for publication, but it does need to be professional enough to be ready, in the opinion of the supervisor, for submission. The thesis is due at the DGS's office by August 20<sup>th</sup>, before the start of the second year of studies.

After completion of 30 hours of course work at Vanderbilt, students will be awarded the Vanderbilt M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese, regardless of any M.A.'s that may be held from other institutions.

Students who have not taught in their first year must satisfactorily complete the M.A. thesis and 24 hours of course work in their first year to become eligible to teach in their second year. NOTE: Failure to complete the M.A. thesis may result in the withholding of TA salary during the terms that the student is unable to teach.

#### **5. Selection of Academic Advisor**

In their third semester of study, graduate students must choose an academic advisor, who will eventually direct the student's Ph.D. dissertation. Once the advisor has accepted the charge, the decision must be reported to the DGS so the information can be included in the student's academic record, to which the advisor will then have administrative access. Although each student is ultimately responsible for his or her own decisions, the role of academic advisor is to provide continuous guidance in designing a plan of study in accordance with the degree requirements. If taken, the optional Comprehensive Exam preparation course (SPAN 6080) is done under the supervision of the advisor. The advisor generally serves as a mentor for the professional development of the student in terms of publications, conferences, grants and fellowships.

#### **Restrictions**

Time limit: The Department expects students to complete all requirements, within the second year of residence in the program. Failing to complete the requirements for the M.A. will result in termination of support. The Graduate School stipulates that a student must complete all

requirements for the M.A. degree within a six-year period, calculated from the end of the student's first semester of enrollment in the Graduate School.

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### III. Ph.D. in Spanish

#### Degree Requirements

**1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. M.A. Thesis; 5. Selection of Academic Advisor; 6. Successful Comprehensive Exam; 7. Successful Qualifying Exam; 8. Successful Dissertation Defense.**

#### 1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion.

Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exam, submit a dissertation proposal; and take the Qualifying Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support, teaching assistantships, and dissertation fellowships.

#### 2. Language requirement.

As part of the M.A. students must demonstrate competence in Portuguese by taking PORT 5203 or a more advanced course taught in the target language. Other possibilities for meeting this requirement will be entertained and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

#### 3. Course work

The Ph.D. in Spanish requires 63 credit hours of course work, including the 30 credit hours earned for the M.A. at Vanderbilt.

##### A. Required courses (12 hours):

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
3. SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology (Students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take SPAN 6020 in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of residence, if offered; students entering with an M.A. must take 6020 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of residence, if offered);
4. SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing (Students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take 6040 in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of residence, if offered; students entering with an M.A. should take 6040 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of residence, if offered).

**B. Core courses (36 hours):**

A minimum of 36 additional credit hours should be in graduate seminars in Spanish, numbered 7000 and above. A maximum of 6 credit hours of Independent Study (SPAN 9560, 9660, 9670) may be applied to the Spanish requirements. Each Independent Study must be approved by the DGS upon the submission of a detailed syllabus prepared by the instructor. Note that SPAN 6080, a special graduate course to be used for Comprehensive Exam preparation, does not count toward these required credit hours.

**C. Required minor (9 hours):**

There is a mandatory minor for the Ph.D. in Spanish, which consists of a minimum of 9 credit hours. This minor is often Portuguese. After the Comprehensive Exam and within the following academic year, students will send their academic advisor in writing their plan to complete the minor. The academic advisor will assess the coherence and relevance of the minor and send the plan for the minor to the DGS. Some minors are pre-established and do not require prior approval; they must simply be declared. These minors are: 1. the Certificate in Latin American Studies issued by the Center for Latin American Studies, 2. the interdisciplinary minor in Philosophy and Literature; and 3. the Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, issued by the Program of Women's and Gender Studies (for details see the Graduate Catalog and contact the director of the program).

**D. Electives (6 hours):**

6 additional hours of graduate-level courses in Spanish, Portuguese or another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

**4. M.A. Thesis**

See above under I. Master of Arts in Spanish.

**5. Selection of Academic Advisor**

See above under I. Master of Arts in Spanish.

**6. Comprehensive Exam**

A Comprehensive Exam is mandatory for all students (accepted with or without an M.A. from another institution) and will be completed by the end of the fourth semester of residence.

**6a. Preparation**

1. All students must take the Comprehensive Exam no later than the end of their fourth semester of residence.
2. The Spanish Comprehensive Exam is based on both the Spanish Peninsular and Spanish American literature lists.

3. Optional Comprehensive Research/Reading course: during their fourth semester, students may take a special graduate course to be used for Comprehensive Exam Preparation (SPAN 6080 Comprehensive Exam Study) for 3 credit hours. The course will not count toward the credit hours needed for completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. degrees. For this course, students will produce, in agreement with their academic advisors a list of works to be read during the semester.

### **6b. Format**

1. Both parts of the Comprehensive Exam will be taken over Spring Break. One will cover the Spanish Peninsular list and the other will cover the Spanish American list. The questions for both parts will be sent to the student by 4:00 pm on the Friday before the beginning of Spring Break and the answers to all of the questions must be sent by email to the DGS by 9:00 am of the Monday following the end of Spring Break.

The exam is take-home and open book. The answers to all of the questions are expected to be fully original to each individual student. Examinees are expected to adhere to the Vanderbilt Honor Code: “Vanderbilt University students pursue all academic endeavors with integrity. They conduct themselves honorably, professionally and respectfully in all realms of their studies in order to promote and secure an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The keystone of our honor system is self-regulation, which requires cooperation and support from each member of the University community.”

#### Part I.

- Identifications with Brief Analysis: Answer six out of eight questions involving identifications and analyses of elements from literary works on the lists. These elements may be a character, a quote, the title of a book, a literary phenomenon, trend or school, among other features of works or literary criticism. The answers may run from one to two pages. At least four of the answers should be in Spanish.

#### Part II.

- Literary analysis in English: Answer one of two questions requiring literary analysis. This short essay should be written in English (four to five pages).

- Literary analysis in Spanish: Answer one of two questions with a longer essay written in Spanish (six to eight pages).

2. The Comprehensive Exam committee will be formed by three faculty members: the student’s academic advisor (chosen by the student during the third semester of study) and two other faculty members chosen by the DGS. If the student’s academic advisor is not available, a substitute member will be chosen by the DGS in consultation with the graduate student being examined. The Comprehensive Exam committee is ultimately responsible for the outcome of the Comprehensive Exam, and has the final say on the outcome of the exam. Exams will be made available to all Faculty members of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese upon request.

3. Possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Exam:
  - a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - b) Pass with admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - c) Fail with the automatic possibility of retaking the exam. The exam can only be retaken once. The retake will take place during the week immediately following the official final exam period of the same semester when the first exam is taken. The student will have one week to take the new exam under the same conditions as described above. The retake will be evaluated by the original committee. The outcome of the retake will be determined by the committee and will be final. The graduate student can opt out of retaking the exam, choosing instead to leave the program.
  
4. Possible outcomes of the retake of the Comprehensive Exam:
  - a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - b) Pass and admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - c) Fail and dismissal from the program.

## **7. Qualifying Exam**

### **7a. Preparation**

1. There are two reading lists for the Qualifying Exam: the Period List and the Specialized Research List.
  
2. The Period List consists of primary and secondary works in all genres from a particular period that is directly related to the dissertation topic.
  
3. The Specialized Research List consists of works based on the dissertation topic. The dissertation and resulting list may be organized around a genre, an issue, a theme, or any combination of these elements, as well as around a particular theoretical problem. The list should include primary works as well as theoretical, historical, and critical works. It may, as deemed necessary by the doctoral committee, include works from different periods, from both sides of the Atlantic, and from Africa, Asia, or any other part of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world. Accompanying the Specialized Research List should be a two-page statement that explains and justifies it in relation to the dissertation topic and proposal.
  
4. Each list consists of approximately 30 to 50 books, as well as complementary chapters of books, articles, and specific works of literature, theory, and criticism. Each list should be compiled by the student in consultation with his or her advisor and committee.
  
5. The final proposal for the dissertation (including bibliography), approved by the student's advisor, should be submitted to the dissertation committee and the DGS one month prior to the Qualifying Exam.
  
6. The dissertation committee will consist of three faculty members from the department and one outside member chosen by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. The student must appoint the dissertation committee in the semester prior to the Qualifying Exam. After securing

the agreement and permission of all parties involved, the student must provide the DGS with a list of the faculty members who will serve on the committee and indicate who will serve as committee chair.

### **7b. Qualifying Exam format**

1. Written portion: The written exam will be designed by the student's academic advisor and agreed upon in advance by the entire committee. It will be divided into two sections: one based on the Period List and the other on the Specialized Research List and the Proposal. The student will answer 3 of the 4 questions in each section. Each essay answer must be from 10 to 15 pages long (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) and must demonstrate dedicated work and sophisticated thinking, and reflect the student's readiness to begin work on the dissertation. Twelve days will be allotted for this exam. The dissertation advisor will distribute copies of the written exam to each member of the committee and the DGS.
2. Oral portion: Five to fifteen days after the satisfactory completion of the written exam, the student will take an oral exam. During this oral exam, the student will present the dissertation proposal, discuss it with the committee, and answer questions regarding the written exam. The main purpose of the oral exam is: 1) to strengthen the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of the proposal; 2) to discuss the material and content of the proposed dissertation; and 3) to define both a plan and a timetable for the completion of the dissertation.
3. Possible outcomes of the Qualifying Exam:
  - a) Pass with distinction and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
  - b) Pass and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
  - c) Fail. Depending on the nature of the failure, the student may be asked to repeat either part or all of the exam. If the exam shows that the student is unlikely to be successful in future exams, he or she may not be given the option of additional testing.

### **8. Dissertation Defense**

Students are required to attend an oral defense of their dissertation. The Department strongly recommends that the final draft of the dissertation be in the hands of the "readers" at least one month prior to the anticipated date for the defense. The student, in consultation with the DGS, the advisor and with the members of the Dissertation Committee, will schedule an oral defense of the dissertation after the Dissertation Committee has received it. The form to request a date for the defense must be signed by the DGS and delivered to the Graduate School at least two weeks in advance.

### **Restrictions**

1. Transfer credit from other institutions may not exceed 15 hours.
2. No undergraduate courses in Spanish may be transferred.

**Time limit**

- a) The Graduate School requires that the Qualifying Exam be taken within four years of admission to the Ph.D. program.
- b) The Graduate School also requires that the dissertation be completed within four years after the student has been admitted to Candidate status (successful completion of Qualifying Exam).
- c) The Department considers these time limits to be reasonable and will not grant extensions except for compelling reasons related to issues of health.

## **IV. The Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese**

### **Degree Requirements**

**1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful M.A. Thesis; 5. Selection of Academic Advisor; 6. Successful Comprehensive Exams; 7. Successful Qualifying Exam; 8. Successful Dissertation Defense.**

#### **1. Student standing**

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exam, submit a dissertation proposal, and take the Qualifying Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support, teaching assistantships, and dissertation fellowships.

#### **2. Language requirement**

Near-native proficiency in both Spanish and Portuguese is required of all students enrolled in the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D. program (see required courses below). No other language requirement is required for the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D.

#### **3. Course work**

The Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese requires 66 credit hours of course work in Spanish and Portuguese, which include the 30 hours at Vanderbilt of the M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese plus an additional 36 credit hours of graduate-level courses in Spanish and Portuguese. It is highly recommended that students exhaust the selection of graduate seminars in Portuguese before taking a 5000-level course in that language. The same applies to Independent Studies either in Spanish or Portuguese. No minor or additional foreign language is required for the Combined Ph.D., although a CLAS certificate is highly recommended.

##### **A. Required courses (15 hours):**

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
3. PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (This requirement may be waived on the basis of a writing sample produced during a one-hour exam and the three credit hours replaced by a graduate-level literature course);

4. SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology (Students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take SPAN 6020 in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of residence, if offered; students entering with an M.A. must take 6020 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of residence, if offered);
5. SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing (Students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take 6040 in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of residence, if offered; students entering with an M.A. should take 6040 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of residence, if offered).

#### B. Core courses (45 hours):

A minimum of 45 additional credit hours in graduate-level electives in Spanish or Portuguese, to include a minimum of 15 hours in 7000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish and 15 in graduate-level Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302 and 5900). A maximum of 6 credit hours of Independent Study (SPAN 9560, 9660, 9670, PORT 9660, 9670) may be applied to the requirements for the Ph.. Each Independent Study must be approved by the DGS upon the submission of a detailed syllabus prepared by the instructor. Note that SPAN 6080, a special graduate course to be used for Comprehensive Exam preparation, does not count toward these required credit hours.

#### C. Electives (6 hours):

6 additional hours of graduate-level courses in Spanish, Portuguese, or another discipline approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

### 4. M.A. Thesis

See above under II. Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese.

### 5. Selection of Academic Advisor

See above under II. Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese.

### 6. Comprehensive Exam

#### 6a. Preparation

1. All students must take the combined Spanish and Portuguese comprehensive exam no later than the end of their fifth semester of residence.
2. The combined comprehensive exam list is based both on a Spanish Peninsular/Spanish American literature list and a Brazilian/Portuguese list.
3. Optional Comprehensive Research/Reading course: during their fifth semester, students may take a special graduate course to be used for Comprehensive Exam Preparation (SPAN 6080 Comprehensive Exam Study) for 3 credit hours under the supervision of their academic advisor. The course will not count toward the credit hours needed for completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. degrees. For this course, students will produce, in agreement with their academic advisor, a list of works to be read during the semester.

## 6b. Format

1. Both parts of the Comprehensive Exam will be taken over Thanksgiving Break. One will cover Spanish Peninsular and Spanish American section of the Combined reading list and the other will cover Luso-Brazilian list. The questions for both parts will be sent to the student by 4:00 pm on the Friday before the beginning of Thanksgiving Break and the answers to all of the questions must be sent by email to the DGS by 9:00 am of the Monday following the end of Thanksgiving Break.

The exam is take-home and open book. The answers to all of the questions are expected to be fully original to each individual student. Examinees are expected to adhere to the Vanderbilt Honor Code: "Vanderbilt University students pursue all academic endeavors with integrity. They conduct themselves honorably, professionally and respectfully in all realms of their studies in order to promote and secure an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The keystone of our honor system is self-regulation, which requires cooperation and support from each member of the University community."

### Part I.

- Identifications with Brief Analysis: Answer six out of eight questions involving identifications and analyses of elements from literary works on the lists. These elements may be a character, a quote, the title of a book, a literary phenomenon, trend or school, among other features of works or literary criticism. The answers may run from one to two pages. At least four of the answers should be in Spanish/Portuguese.

### Part II.

- Literary analysis in English: Answer one of two questions requiring literary analysis. This short essay should be written in English (four to five pages).

- Literary analysis in Spanish/Portuguese: Answer one of two questions with a longer essay written in Spanish/Portuguese (six to eight pages).

Note: In the Spanish exam the two essays chosen by the student cannot be in the same area, that is, in Spanish American literature or Spanish Peninsular literature.

2. The Comprehensive Exam committee will be formed by three faculty members: the student's academic advisor (chosen by the student during the third semester of study) and two other faculty members chosen by the DGS. If the student's academic advisor is not available, a substitute member will be chosen by the DGS in consultation with the graduate student being examined. The Comprehensive Exam committee is ultimately responsible for the outcome of the Comprehensive Exam, and has the final say on the outcome of the exam. Exams will be made available to all Faculty members of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese upon request.

3. Possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Exam:

- a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.

- b) Pass with admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - c) Fail with the automatic possibility of retaking the exam. The exam can only be retaken once. The retake will take place during the week immediately following the official final exam period of the same semester when the first exam is taken. The student will have one week to take the new exam under the same conditions as described above. The retake will be evaluated by the original committee. The outcome of the retake will be determined by the committee and will be final. The graduate student can opt out of retaking the exam, choosing instead to leave the program.
4. Possible outcomes of the retake of the Comprehensive Exam:
- a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - b) Pass and admission to the Ph.D. program.
  - c) Fail and dismissal from the program.

## **7. Qualifying Exam**

### **7a. Preparation**

1. There are two reading lists for the Qualifying Exam: the Period List and the Specialized Research List.
2. The Period List consists of primary and secondary works in all genres from a particular period that is directly related to the dissertation topic.
3. The Specialized Research List consists of works based on the dissertation topic. The dissertation and resulting list may be organized around a genre, an issue, a theme, or any combination of these elements, as well as around a particular theoretical problem. The list should include primary works as well as theoretical, historical, and critical works. It may, as deemed necessary by the doctoral committee, include works from different periods, from both sides of the Atlantic, and from Africa, Asia, or any other part of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world. Accompanying the Specialized Research List should be a two-page statement that explains and justifies it in relation to the dissertation topic and proposal.
4. Each list consists of approximately 30 to 50 books, as well as complementary chapters of books, articles, and specific works of literature, theory, and criticism. Each list should be compiled by the student in consultation with his or her advisor and committee.
5. The final proposal for the dissertation (including bibliography), approved by the student's advisor, should be submitted to the dissertation committee and the DGS one month prior to the Qualifying Exam.
6. The dissertation committee will consist of three faculty members from the department and one outside member chosen by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. The student must appoint the dissertation committee in the semester prior to the Qualifying Exam. After securing the agreement and permission of all parties involved, the student must provide the DGS with a

list of the faculty members who will serve on the committee and indicate who will serve as committee chair.

### **7b. Format**

1. Written portion: The written exam will be designed by the student's academic advisor and agreed upon in advance by the entire committee. It will be divided into two sections: one based on the Period List and the other on the Specialized Research List and the Proposal. The student will answer 3 of the 4 questions in each section. Each essay answer must be from 10 to 15 pages long (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) and must demonstrate dedicated work and sophisticated thinking, and reflect the student's readiness to begin work on the dissertation. Twelve days will be allotted for this exam. The dissertation advisor will distribute copies of the written exam to each member of the committee and the DGS.
2. Oral portion: Five to fifteen days after the satisfactory completion of the written exam, the student will take an oral exam. During this oral exam, the student will present the dissertation proposal, discuss it with the committee, and answer questions regarding the written exam. The main purpose of the oral exam is: 1) to strengthen the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of the proposal; 2) to discuss the material and content of the proposed dissertation; and 3) to define both a plan and a timetable for the completion of the dissertation.
3. Possible outcomes of the Qualifying Exam:
  - a) Pass with distinction and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
  - b) Pass and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
  - c) Fail. Depending on the nature of the failure, the student may be asked to repeat either part or all of the exam. If the exam shows that the student is unlikely to be successful in future exams, he or she may not be given the option of additional testing.

### **8. Dissertation Defense**

Students are required to attend an oral defense of their dissertation. The Department strongly recommends that the final draft of the dissertation be in the hands of the "readers" at least one month prior to the anticipated date for the defense. The student, in consultation with the DGS, the advisor and with the members of the Dissertation Committee, will schedule an oral defense of the dissertation after the Dissertation Committee has received it. The form to request a date for the defense must be signed by the DGS and delivered to the Graduate School at least two weeks in advance.

### **Restrictions**

1. Transfer credit from other institutions may not exceed 15 hours.
2. Transfer students will take the combined Spanish and Portuguese Comprehensive Exam.
3. Aside from PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900, all 5000-level Portuguese courses in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese that appear in the Graduate School Catalog may be counted toward the Portuguese component of the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D.

**Time limit**

- a) The Graduate School requires that the Qualifying Exam be taken within four years of admission to the Ph.D. program.
- b) The Graduate School also requires that the dissertation be completed within four years after the student has been admitted to Candidate status (successful completion of Qualifying Exam).
- c) The Department considers these time limits to be reasonable and will not grant extensions except for compelling reasons related to issues of health.

**Timetable for Graduate Studies**

\* \* \*

**Ph.D. in Spanish****A. Students entering the program with a B.A. or *Licenciatura*****1<sup>st</sup> year**

Fall semester:

4 courses, including:

SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

In addition to the four courses for credit, register for PORT 1103 as an official audit if completing the language requirement with PORT 5203 in the spring semester. Graduate auditors are expected to complete all course requirements as if the course were taken for credit and obtain a final grade of at least B+.

Spring semester:

4 courses.

Fulfill language requirement.

Summer:

Prepare and submit M.A. Thesis.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Fall semester:

3 courses.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 6080 (this course does not count toward the degree).

Take Comprehensive Exam.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year**

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> year

Fall semester:

Complete remaining course work (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier) and register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

Spring semester:

Register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN 8999) or Ph.D. and Dissertation Research (SPAN 9999) if the Qualifying Exam was taken in the fall. All students must complete the Qualifying Exam by the end of the fourth year.

Apply for dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> year

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

### **B. Students entering the program with an M.A. in a field that may allow transfer credit hours for the Spanish Ph.D. (up to 15 transferred credit hours).**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

In addition to the three courses for credit, register for PORT 1103 as an official audit if completing the language requirement with PORT 5203 in the spring

semester. Graduate auditors are expected to complete all course requirements as if the course were taken for credit and obtain a final grade of at least B+.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Fulfill M.A. language requirement by the end of the year, if not fulfilled at previous institution.

A decision about transfer credit hours (up to 15) will be made at the end of the year.

Summer:

Prepare and submit M.A. Thesis.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 6080 (this course does not count toward the degree).

Take Comprehensive Exam.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> year**

Fall semester:

3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor.

Spring semester:

1 or 2 courses (assuming 15 transfer hours).

SPAN 8999 for 3.0 or 6.0 hours.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

## **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years**

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Apply for dissertation scholarships and research grants.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

\* \* \*

## Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese

### A. Students entering the program with a B.A. or *Licenciatura*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year

Fall semester:

4 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Depending on their linguistic preparation, non-native speakers of Portuguese may be advised to either register for PORT 1103 (Intensive Elementary Portuguese) as an official audit or take PORT 5203 (Intermediate Portuguese) for credit. Graduate auditors are expected to complete all course requirements as if the course were taken for credit and obtain a final grade of at least B+.

Spring semester:

4 courses.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) in their first year.

Summer:

Prepare and submit M.A. Thesis.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Fall semester:

3 courses

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered, or

2 courses and SPAN 6080 (this course does not count toward the degree).

Take Combined Comprehensive Exam.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> year

Fall semester:

Complete remaining course work (including SPAN 6020 or 6040) and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

Spring semester:

Register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999) for 6.0 hours or for enough hours to reach 72 credit hours.

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Apply for dissertation scholarships or research grants.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> year

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

### **B. Students entering the program with an M.A. in a field that may allow transfer credit hours for the Combined Ph.D. (up to 15 transferred credit hours).**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Depending on their linguistic preparation, non-native speakers of Portuguese may be advised to either register for PORT 1103 (Intensive Elementary Portuguese) as an official audit or take PORT 5203 (Intermediate Portuguese) for credit.

Graduate auditors are expected to complete all course requirements as if the course were taken for credit and obtain a final grade of at least B+.

Spring semester:  
3 courses.

A decision about transfer credit hours (up to 15) will be made at the end of the year.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) and Comparative Methodology (if offered) in their first year.

Summer:  
Prepare and submit M.A. Thesis

## **2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Fall semester:  
3 courses, including:  
SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;  
SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.  
Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:  
3 courses.  
Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> year**

Fall semester:  
3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier) or 2 courses and SPAN 6080 (this course does not count toward the degree).  
Take Combined Comprehensive Exam.  
Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

Spring semester:  
Complete remaining course work and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).  
Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.  
Submit final dissertation proposal.  
Schedule Qualifying Exam.

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years**

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Apply for dissertation scholarships and research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.